

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM EC BRUSSELS DATED APRIL 20,1977 SENT
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO GENEVA, BONN, LONDON, PARIS, PRAGUE,
ROME IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO, ELAB, PINT, SHUM

SUBJECT: WFTU REACTIONS TO ILO DECISIONS

1. THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU) IS UNHAPPY
ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR
ORGANIZATION (ILO). THIS IS CLEAR FROM AN ARTICLE TITLED
"ILO GOVERNING BODY: PRESSURE FROM THE UNITED STATES;
TWO INIQUITOUS DECISIONS," APPEARING IN THE PRAGUE PUBLI-
CATION, "FLASHES FROM THE TRADE UNIONS" DATED MARCH 18,
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JUST RECEIVED HERE IN THE MAILS.

2. THE TWO "INIQUITOUS DECISIONS" ARE THOSE OF THE MARCH
GOVERNING BODY (A) RECOMMENDING A SCREENING PROCEDURE FOR
HIGHLY POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS BY AMENDING ARTICLE 17 OF
THE ILO CONFERENCE STANDING ORDERS AND (B) ADOPTING THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE SITUATION IN ISRAELI-

OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THESE ACTIONS, THE ARTICLE STATES, STEM FROM " A SPECIFIC OFFENSIVE ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND REACTIONARY CIRCLES WHICH SUPPORT IT."

3. MOST OF THE ARTICLE IS DEVOTED TO CRITICIZING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 17. THE PROPOSAL WOULD INTRODUCE A "SYSTEM OF PRELIMINARY CENSURE (SIC) OF RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY DELEGATES AT THE CONFERENCE" AND WOULD ALSO "LIMIT THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF CONFERENCE DELEGATES TO PRESENT RESOLUTIONS."

4. IN ONE OF SEVERAL REFERENCES TO HUMAN RIGHTS, THE ARTICLE CONTINUES: " THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WILL, IN PRACTICE, PREVENT WORKERS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS FROM BEING ABLE TO SPEAK IN TIME, AT THE GENERAL INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE, IN ORDER NOT ONLY TO PROTECT TRADE UNION FREEDOMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT ALSO, AS IS OFTEN THE CASE, TO SAVE THE LIVES OF WORKERS STILL SUBMITTED TO RACIAL, COLONIALIST, NEOCOLONIALIST OR CLASS OPPRESSION IN NUMEROUS COUNTRIES.

5. THE ARTICLE DEVOTES ONLY A PARAGRAPH TO THE DECISION ON THE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE, BUT AGAIN CASTS ITS CRITICISM IN A HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK: " A FURTHER OBJECTIVE PURSUED BY THE UNITED STATES AND AIMED AT LIMITING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE ILO IN THE PROTECTION OF TRADE UNION FREEDOMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS MATERIALIZED AS A RESULT OF A DECISION OF THE BODY TO CONSIDER THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION SHOULD NOT CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION FREEDOMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES IN OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES."

6. THE SERIOUS THREAT" HANGING OVER THE ILO, THE ARTICLE ASYS, COMES " AS A RESULT OF THE REFUSAL OF CERTAIN BODIES OF THE ORGANIZATION TO RESPECT DECISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE, FACILITATED BY UNJUST AND UNBALANCED REPRESENTATION OF THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT."

7. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH ADVICE ON STRATEGY AT THE JUNE 1977 ILO CONFERENCE: THE CONFERENCE " MUST MAKE DECISIONS CONCERNING THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS MAJOR ROLE AS SUPREME BODY OF THE ORGANIZATION AND SHOW THAT THE STRUCTURAL REFORMS MADE MORE THAN A DECADE AGO BY THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION,

CONSTITUTE, MORE THAN EVER, AN INESCAPABLE PRIORITY FOR
PREVENTING THE MANIPULATION AND PRESSURE WHICH ARE AT
PRESENT BEING USED AGAINST THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR
ORGANIZATION."

8. FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE BEING AIR POUCHED TO DALE
GOOD OF S/IL AND DAN HOROWITZ OF LABOR DEPARTMENT.
HINTON UNQUOTE VANCE

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